The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1500 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 49

New York Federation Offers F.D.R. Full Support In War Against Japs

Calls On Workers To Produce Munitions For Armed Forces Without Stint

New York City.—The New York State Federation of Labor, representing 1,400,000 members of various A. F. of L. unions in the Empire State, sent the following telegram to President Roosevelt:

"We pledge to you our readiness to cooperate wholeheartedly with you and to accede to any request that you may make of us in helping to protect our country and its allies and our common interests against all our enemies."

Thomas J. Lyons, president of the New York State Federation of Labor, called a special emergency meeting of the Executive Council of that organization as soon as the word of the Japanese declaration of war was received in the United States.

The Executive Council met in New York City and adopted a resolution denouncing the Japanese for their "unprecedented treachery" and calling upon the A. F. of L. workers in New York State to turn out the implements of war "just as fast as it is humanly possible to do so."

"The A. F. of L. workers of New York State are determined that Japan must be absolutely smashed for her murderous assault upon Americans and American soil," Mr. Lyons said. "We are rolling up our sleeves and we are going to stay on the job and keep turning out the things our government needs."

The New York City Central Trades and Labor Council, representing 750,000 A. F. of L. unionists, called an emergency meeting for 10:30 A. M. Wednesday.

Officers of the Council pledged the complete cooperation of the A. F. of L. members of the metropolitan New York area in "all measures taken by the American government." They predicted the unanimous adoption at the special meeting of a resolution pledging uninterrupted production and a total avoidance of strikes, with the conciliation and mediation facilities being used in the event of differences with employers.

"The A. F. of L. workers of Greater New York will back up our Commander-in-Chief to the last man," Secretary James C. Quinn said. "Already we are calling upon all able-bodied men and women belonging to our unions to volunteer for civilian defense duties. We will do everything possible. Our country has never called upon the A. F. of L. in vain. We are again responding. The A. F. of L. workers of New York are ready to give their lives if necessary, just as our brothers did during the First World War."

Bricklayers Ban All Work Stoppages In Patriotic Response To War Needs

Washington, D. C.—Strict orders were sent to all subordinate locals of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union not to strike under any circumstances.

The message from the union's Executive Board was dispatched immediately after America's declaration of war against Japan by President Harry C. Bates and Secretary R. J. Gray. It follows:

"It now becomes the duty of every American citizen who has enjoyed the privileges and benefits of this great nation to do everything within his power to advance the cause of our great country in this struggle that has been forced upon us.

"Many of the younger members of this international union will be called upon to enter combat service in the defense of our country. Those of us who stay at home must bend every effort in the direction of creating those things that will give our combat forces every necessary weapon and instrument to defeat the enemies of this country.

"During the emergency our organization has conducted itself in an admirable manner and we have been free from strikes and stoppages of work on all defense projects. We call upon all officers and members of our subordinate unions to maintain this record. In the event questions may arise on any defense work which cannot be settled by local arbitration the matters must be referred to this international union and under no circumstances shall there be any stoppage of work.

"We urge that you go even beyond this and in your Central Labor Bodies and Building Trades Councils, impress upon every one you come in contact with the absolute necessity of exerting every effort in their power to maintain and preserve the nation in which we have all enjoyed greater privileges than have ever existed in any other country on the globe.

"Let it not be said that the members of this great institution has not exerted every effort within its power to aid our country and the cause of the United States in this crisis.

"We hope the forces of all organized labor of every description will join in this effort and that a conference will be held to devise ways and means by which the forces of organized labor can be best utilized to meet the task that confronts us. You may be assured that the executive officers of our international union will put forth every effort in this direction and that we will do everything within our power to bring about a united service of organized labor in this conflict.

"We know that the membership of our international union will heed this appeal, and join with American citizens in every walk of life by reaffirming our loyalty to our nation and accomplishing the task that is before us."

Pacific Coast Anti-Labor Groups Banned by Labor Relations Board

Four notorious anti-labor organizations on the Pacific Coast, which have for years warred on unions with the aid of huge "slush funds" contributed by Tory employers were found guilty of lawbreaking by the National Labor Relations Board.

They are: Southern Californians, Inc., the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, the Neutral Thousands and the Employers' Advisory Service, all of which operated chiefly in and around Los Angeles, as part of a boosted to keep the region "open shop" by "hook or crook."

All four put forward the claim that they were "civic" groups and, therefore, not covered by the Wagner Act. The board riddled this argument, declaring they were merely fronts for anti-union employers and subject to the law just like other business. It ordered them to end their illegal activities.

The board found that Southern Californians was the top agency of the labor haters. It carried on most of the propaganda against unions and likewise financed the other three organizations to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Merchants and Manufacturers' role, the board said, was that of a strikebreaking agency and operator of a "scab" employment service. The Neutral Thousands, also known as "T. N. T." sponsored formation of "company unions," disguised as "independents." Actual work of organizing the "dummies" was done by a subsidiary, the Employers' Advisory Service.

Anti-labor conspiracies of these organizations and the vast "war chests" that financed them were brought to light in an investigation of unfair labor practice charges filed against the Los Angeles Soft Drink and Fruit manufacturers by A. F. of L. and C. I. O. unions. These manufacturers were one of the "victims" offered by the anti-labor groups to keep out bona fide unions. They were likewise ordered by the board to stop their law violations.

"M. & M." and "M. & M." collaborated closely in the under-cover drive, the board's report revealed. "M. & M." formed the associations of employers, who were united to maintain the so-called "open shop."

"Direct strikebreaking" service was also made available to M. & M. members," the board found. "In addition, M. & M. maintained a free employment service for placement of non-union (scab) employes, particularly at strikebound plants."

The "open shop" policy advocated by the four organizations was called by the board a camouflage "designed to cover a deliberate anti-union policy." This policy was also cloaked behind a propaganda campaign in which unions were denounced as "instruments of racketeers' and 'professional organizers'," the board pointed out.

Under the board's order, all the "dummy" unions established by the four organizations are knocked out.

AFL Leaders Meet War Crisis With No-Strike Pledges; Green Summons Executive Council To Emergency Meeting; Building Trades Form Plans With War And Navy Chiefs

AFL President Declares Labor Knows Its Duty And Will Do More Than Its Duty To Win War

Washington, D. C.—President William Green summoned a special meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of "dealing with the serious situation which has been created by the Japanese declaration of war against our country." The Executive Council meeting will open in AFL headquarters here at 10 a. m. Monday, December 15.

"With America at war the no-strike policy of the American Federation of Labor must be made 100 per cent effective," Mr. Green said. "I have every confidence that the five million loyal members of the American Federation of Labor will respond to the emergency and give enthusiastic service to our nation.

"Japanese treachery and aggression have aroused in American workers an unconquerable determination to see this fight through to a victorious end, no matter what it may cost.

"Labor knows its duty. It will do its duty, and more. No new laws are necessary to prevent strikes. Labor will see to that. American workers will now produce as the workers of no other nation have ever produced and they will keep steadfastly on the job of supplying our armed forces with the munitions of war until victory and final peace are won."

"Men and Means At Your Disposal," Electrical Workers Wire President

Washington, D. C.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, signified the willingness of that organization to make every sacrifice for the furtherance of America's war effort in the following telegram to President Roosevelt:

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers desires to express to you, the Chief Executive of our nation, our determination to support to the fullest extent of our ability and resources the successful prosecution of the war against Japan. This determination is in sober response to the mandate of Congress in its declaration of war as of this date. The members of our brotherhood on the job and in uniform will patriotically give—with the enthusiasm of free men fighting for freedom—their unstinted effort and energy to the end that the American way of life shall continue for those worthy of its benefits. The men and means of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are at your disposal.

ED J. BROWN,
International President.
G. M. BUGNIAZETT,
International Secretary.

"We Too War On Japs"—Machinists

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Council of the International Association of Machinists, in session here, took immediate steps to meet the war emergency. The Council, as soon as war was declared, sent the following telegram to President Roosevelt:

"The Executive Council of International Association of Machinists now in session congratulate you on your message to Congress. We want you to know the Executive Council, speaking for more than 340,000 machinists, have also declared war on the Axis Nesse Empire. We are calling upon our entire membership to roll up their sleeves and give everything they have for full speed ahead."

Harvey Brown, president of the union, also made public the following resolution adopted by the Machinists' Executive Council:

"Whereas the Imperial forces of Japan on December 7, 1941, launched treacherous and unprovoked attack on citizens and possessions of the United States and Great Britain even while her envoys were still carrying on pretended negotiations for a peaceful settlement of international problems, thus setting a new all time record of treachery and insincerity in the conduct of international affairs; and

"Whereas as a result of the unwarranted aggression a state of war now exists between Japan and the United States and Canada; therefore be it

"Resolved that we, the Executive Council of the International Association of Machinists, now in session assembled in Washington, D. C., reaffirm the International Association of Machinists' unswerving loyalty and devotion to the principles and ideals on which these two great nations were founded, and pledge our undivided support in prosecuting to a victorious conclusion the conflict precipitated by Japan's infamous and premeditated act of aggression; and be it further

"Resolved that inasmuch as the success of our armed forces must not be jeopardized by cease work orders behind the firing line, the Executive Council, speaking for more than 340,000 members in the United States and Canada, also declares war on the Japanese Empire and calls upon our entire membership for an all out effort to make possible uninterrupted production of munitions and implements of war for the duration of this conflict."

Calls On All District Councils To Obey No-Strike Policy

Washington, D. C.—President John P. Coyne of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor called an emergency meeting of the heads of the nineteen unions affiliated with the department to map a program of cooperation with the Government during the war emergency.

Mr. Coyne revealed that high officials of the War Department, the Navy Department and other Federal defense agencies will take part in the conference and assist in shaping plans.

At the same time, Mr. Coyne sent telegrams to all Building and Construction Trades Councils throughout the country "directing strict adherence to the provisions of the policy that no cessation of work for any reason whatever on national defense projects be permitted."

"Building tradesmen are fully aware of the responsibility placed upon them," Mr. Coyne declared, "and will not be found lacking in their duty.

"Japanese aggression has aroused in our people a determination to see this war brought to a successful conclusion.

"The no-strike policy of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, contained in the stabilization agreement with Government agencies, will be made 100 per cent effective due to the declaration of war on Japan."

Union Heads Throughout Nation Promise President Full Support In Total War Production Drive.

Washington, D. C.—Responding to the war emergency, leaders of American Federation of Labor unions throughout the nation pledged their organizations and members to refrain from striking for any cause.

President William Green announced a special meeting of the AFL Executive Council will be held here Dec. 15 to make the no-strike policy 100 per cent effective.

On the heels of his appeal to American workers "to keep steadfastly on the job," assurances came pouring into AFL headquarters from every section of the country that the five million members of the AFL will stand by the President and give full support to the Government. Excerpts from the outstanding messages of support received at AFL headquarters follow:

John P. Coyne, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL—An official order has been sent to all Building and Construction Trades Councils throughout the nation directing strict adherence to the provisions of the policy that no cessation of work for any reason whatever on national defense projects be permitted. I have called in the presidents of the nineteen international unions affiliated with this department for a special meeting in Washington Dec. 11 to consider how we may best help and support the war program.

Joseph McDonagh, Secretary-Treasurer of the Metal Trades Department—The Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor stands 100 per cent with the American people in support of the Government in this crisis. We fully approve the position taken by President Green.

C. Executive Board of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union—During the emergency our organization has conducted itself in an admirable manner and we have been free from strikes and stoppages of work on all defense projects. We call upon all officers and members of our subordinate unions to maintain this record. In the event questions may arise on any defense work which cannot be settled by local arbitration the matters must be referred to this international union and under no circumstances shall there be any stoppage of work.

George Masterton, President, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters—The United Association subscribes 100 per cent to the policy announced by President Green.

The New York State Federation of Labor, representing 1,400,000 AFL members in the Empire State, sent this telegram to President Roosevelt: "We pledge to you our readiness to cooperate wholeheartedly with you and to accede to any request that you may make of us in helping to protect our country and its allies and our common interests against all our enemies."

John Lochner, President of the Washington, D. C., Central Labor Union—We pledge that the loyal members of the American Federation of Labor in the District of Columbia will stay on the job under any and all circumstances. There can be no strikes with our nation at war. Our men and women are ready to give to the Government of the United States their utmost service for the winning of this war.

C. L. Rosemund, President of the Federation of Technical Engineers and Draftsmen's Unions—The policy announced by President William Green will forth be the policy of this organization. It is directed that all local unions govern themselves accordingly.

Ed J. Brown, President, and G. M. Bugniazet, Secretary, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, telegraphed to President Roosevelt—The members of the union on the jobs and in uniform will patriotically give—with the enthusiasm of free men fighting for freedom—their unstinted effort and energy to the end that the American way of life shall continue for those worthy of its benefits. The men and means of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are at your disposal.

The Executive Council of the International Association of Machinists—Adopted resolution calling on entire membership "for an all-out effort to make possible uninterrupted production of munitions and implements of war for the duration."

BERGOFF ARRESTED IN NEW YORK CITY

Notorious Strikebreaker Tries to Start Same Old Game

New York City.—Pearl L. Bergoff, notorious professional strikebreaker, who had been out of that business since revocation of his private-detective license in 1935, was arrested last night on order of Attorney General John J. Bennett jr., on a charge that he established himself in the strike-breaking business in New York three months ago.

Magistrate Ernest J. Sweeney released him in bail of $2,500. Mr. Bergoff's daughter, Harriet, thirty-one years old, lives at 105 West Seventy-second Street, where they were arrested, was paroled in the custody of her attorney on a charge of being associated with her father in the removal of strikebreaking venture. Lew Cohn, fifty, of 559 West 156th Street, who also was charged with being involved in the enterprise, was released in $1,500 bail, pending trial in Special Sessions. All were charged with violating provisions of the penal law and the general business law.

Action, according to Leonard E. Ruisi, Assistant Attorney General, returned to the strike-breaking field by getting his daughter and a private detective, Bernhard Haas, sixty-one, of 211 East Eighty-ninth Street, to serve as front. Using Haas's private-detective license, the Modern Investigation Bureau, Inc., was set up on Aug. 29 at 1834 Broadway, just above Columbus Circle, Mr. Ruisi declared. Haas was made president, but to Miss Bergoff, as treasurer, was assigned 75 per cent of the stock, and hence 75 per cent of the profits. Haas received 25 per cent, Mr. Ruisi said. With the invent the Haas license was suspended by Michael J. Walsh, Secretary of State.

According to Mr. Ruisi, the Modern Investigation Bureau hired seventy men as strike breakers, ten of them who had criminal records. To get the services of the latter, at least for a ten-day period, smudged or incomplete fingerprints were sent to Police Headquarters to comply with the law. The bureau then posed an indignant demand for better prints the men involved had put in a good several days of strike breaking, he said.

Mr. Ruisi said that Bergoff's men were employed actively during November in breaking the strike of members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, at the warehouse of Spear & Co., 524 West Twenty-third Street.

Agreement Signed By Electricians And Rural Electrification Unit

A far-reaching agreement, which sets a new landmark of cooperation between organized labor and the government, in the production of cheap power for the nation's farmers, was signed by the Rural Electrification Administration and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The union pact is the first to be entered into by the R. E. A. since its founding five years ago and is the culmination of prolonged negotiations between President Ed J. Brown of the Electrical Workers and Harry Slattery, administrator of the R. E. A.

One of the major goals of the agreement is to bring about the kind of union-management cooperation on R. E. A. power lines that has already been achieved under the Tennessee Valley Authority, with great benefits to consumers, workers and the government.

The rural power lines, which are managed by local cooperatives under the guidance of the R. E. A., already serve 1,500,000 farmers and employ 10,000 workers. Ultimately they will provide cheap "juice" to 5,000,000 farmers and have a working force of over 25,000.

Under the new agreement, the union pledges itself to build up a select group of maintenance workers for the R. E. A. lines; establish state councils of these workers, and do all in its power to avoid strikes. It also promises the institute a program of education to make the workers conscious of the farmers' problems, the cooperative movement, and the "public" character of their positions.

In return, the R. E. A. commits itself to the observance of high labor standards, and will endeavor to persuade all rural "co-ops" to adopt the standards. These are to include the hiring by most of the "co-ops" of union wages prevailing in their areas.

Also, once a year, a general conference will be held, with participation of leaders of the R. E. A., the Electrical Workers, state councils of R. E. A. workers and leaders of the farm power "co-ops" to discuss mutual problems.

Slattery, in a letter to the rural "co-ops," stressed that for the sake of efficiency of operation, "the time has come to work out a fair and equitable labor relations policy."

"It is important to our power systems to have technically qualified linemen and other employes," he added. "Otherwise we court disaster. The loyalty of the employes is requisite to our success, and loyal service can best be secured from men and women satisfied with their conditions. Proper labor standards are essential to successful operation."

Another great advance in the public power field was made by the Electrical Workers and other A. F. of L. unions on the T. V. A. An agreement was entered into, following collective bargaining conference between the unions and the management, which established a $1.50 an hour basic wage for most of the skilled crafts—the highest in history in the area served by the T. V. A. At the same time, consumers are getting the lowest power rates in history.

Substantial wage increases were also obtained for all unskilled workers. Over 30,000 employes, engaged in T. V. A. construction work, benefit from the new scales.

Culinary Industry Plans to Raise $100,000 For Allied War Relief

New York, N. Y.—An intensive campaign for $100,000 to aid Britain, Russia and China, was started December 1 by the Joint Hotel and Restaurant Allied War Relief Fund organized by Los Angeles culinary unions employes with an appeal to 8,000 night clubs, restaurants, and all other eating and drinking establishments.

All restaurant and night club employes are being asked for a contribution of one day's pay by December 19 by the New York Local Joint Executive Board of the Hotel and Restaurant International Alliance of America and the Bartenders International Union of America, A. F. of L.

Restaurants, night clubs and other eating establishments are being asked to contribute 5 per cent of the day's gross receipts on December 19 by the committee, which has the endorsement of the Affiliated Restauranteurs, the Restaurant Owners Guild and the Progressive Restaurant Owners Association. The $100,000 fund will be given to the United Clothing Relief Association and the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor which is cooperating with the British War Relief Society.

Carpenter local unions from all parts of the country have contributed $4,970 to aid British labor since the campaign opened last May, according to Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the A. F. of L. and Chairman of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, in a report on the response to date of this important A. F. of L. union to his humanitarian appeal.

"Fifteen of the unions have contributed $100 or over," Mr. Woll stated, "with one contribution of $525 from Carpenters Local No. 169 of East St. Louis, Illinois, which was raised by a special assessment of 50 cents per member for this purpose."

The Carpenters have responded from every section of the country, according to the committee's report, including the Gulf States of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming.

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AGAINST SMITH BILL

New York City.—The executive committee of Fight For Freedom in a special session issued a statement declaring that the Smith Labor Bill passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday "would not prevent strikes or increase production."

"It would cause widespread dissatisfaction in factories throughout the country among the millions of loyal American workers who are producing the armaments to smash Hitlerism."